In the Claims:

- 1. (withdrawn)
- 2. (withdrawn)
- 3. (withdrawn)
- 4. (withdrawn)
- 5. (withdrawn)
- 6. (withdrawn)
- 7. (cancelled)
- 8. (cancelled)
- 9. (cancelled)
- 10. (cancelled)
- (*) IV. (original) A method of endpoint detection in plasma etching, comprising the actions of:

measuring voltage across a plasma system by measuring a voltage difference across an element that is external to said plasma system; and stopping etch when said voltage decreases a predetermined amount within a predetermined time.

- 12. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein said element is a resistor.
- 13. (currently amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said predetermined amount is a voltage drop change of not less than 5% from a reference voltage and said predetermined time is not less than 3 seconds.
 - 14. (cancelled)
 - 15. (cancelled)
 - 16. (cancelled)
 - 17. (cancelled)
 - 18. (cancelled)